



State of Arizona  
**Department of Education**

**Tom Horne**  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

**NSLP CN # 16-08**  
**USDA Memo # SP 07-2008**

**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** School Health & Nutrition Program Sponsors

**FROM:** Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent  
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services

Lee Renda, NSLP Nutrition Director  
Arizona Department of Education, School Health & Nutrition Programs

**DATE:** March 21, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Farm to School Cafeteria Initiatives

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*Original Signed*

The recently enacted Fiscal Year 2008 Agricultural Appropriations Act directed the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work with School Meal Program administrators and local food advocates to identify opportunities for growth in local procurement and to provide Congress a report on these efforts. In response to this request, USDA recently held a “*Farm to School*” session at the National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference sponsored by the Food Research and Action Center and America’s Second Harvest. The session was designed to gather information on best practices in farm to school initiatives and to identify barriers or difficulties in creating and/or maintaining such initiatives.

The session provided invaluable information on farm to school experiences, and USDA would like to offer others the opportunity to contribute as well. Please review the following agenda and submit any comments by phone and/or email to: **Lynn Rodgers-Kuperman, at (703) 605-4390 or [lynn.rodgers@fns.usda.gov](mailto:lynn.rodgers@fns.usda.gov)**.

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## FARM TO SCHOOL DISCUSSION AGENDA

Farm to school initiatives play an important role in improving the economic stability of small farmers and the nutritional health of school-aged children. In an effort to assist school meal program administrators and local food advocates to identify opportunities for growth in local procurements, USDA is seeking best practice information to share with program participants. Specific areas of interest and discussion are listed below.

### Collaboration/Support

- What are some ways LEA's have identified local farmers and encouraged them to submit bids?
- What are some of the effective marketing materials and media campaigns used at the state, regional, and national levels to increase momentum for Farm to School Initiatives?
- How can local food advocates assist in this process?
- How can purchasing through co-ops improve this program?
- How can nutrition education add to the program's success?
- Are there specific networking systems you have used to learn more about these opportunities?

### Barriers/Difficulties

- Are there any concerns about buying local foods?
- What are the major distribution/transportation barriers to purchasing locally?
- What are some other perceived barriers to purchasing local fruits and vegetables?
- How does food safety factor into program planning?

Please submit comments to **Lynn Rodgers-Kuperman at (703) 605-4390 or [lynn.rodgers@fns.usda.gov](mailto:lynn.rodgers@fns.usda.gov)**.

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